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SOURCE Neues DeutschlandDEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN THE GDR

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

According to the GDR State Secretariat for Higher Education, 19,000 newly matriculated students began studies at universities and schools of advanced education in the fall of 1953; 6,900 new students entered workers' and peasants' faculties at the universities; and 3,700 students started university and college correspondence courses. This increases the total number of higher education students in the GDR to 64,000, or to 74,000 if correspondence-course students are included. For every 1,000 citizens in the GDR, there are 4.1 higher education students (including correspondence-course students).

The proportion of new students from workers' and peasants' families has increased to 52 percent (at the Dresden Technical College it increased to 64 percent). Eighty-five percent of all students passed their "Reifepruefung" [final examinations at secondary schools entitling the successful candidate to matriculate at any German university without further tests] with a grade of "good" or better. In 1952, 40 percent of the students received only a passing grade. Particularly high achievements were attained by students majoring in technical, medical, veterinarian, and scientific subjects.

The number of female students shows an increase over the 1952 total; 30 to 35 percent of all newly matriculated students are female. However, the distribution of female students is uneven. For instance, more than 50 percent of the medicine, history, language, and education majors are female, while in technical fields the female students number less than 5 percent. (1)

Government-Subsidized Scholarships for University Students

The total government support to higher education students amounted to 120 million Deutsche marks for 1953, an annual average of 6,200 Deutsche marks per student. The monthly subsidy to students of workers' and peasants' faculties averages from 180-300 Deutsche marks; the subsidy to other students averages

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from 130-240 Deutsche marks per month. In addition there are two special scholarships. One, the Wilhelm Pieck Scholarship, is available to outstanding students of workers' and peasants' faculties; the other, the Karl Marx Scholarship, is available to any student who has shown exceptional achievement, particularly in sociological fields. The first scholarship amounts to 300 Deutsche marks per month, the second to 450 Deutsche marks per month. Altogether, 94 percent of all students received some type of scholarship aid during 1953, and 98 percent of the students obtained a reduction in tuition fees.

To encourage the further development of new scientists and technicians, the GDR has devised a scholarship system for candidates at universities and colleges. The candidates are divided into two groups: doctoral candidates, who receive a subsidy of 450 Deutsche marks per month over a period of 3 years (500 Deutsche marks if domiciled in Berlin); and professorial candidates, who receive subsidies amounting to 500 Deutsche marks per month for 3-4 years (550 Deutsche marks if domiciled in Berlin). Furthermore, a minimum salary of 650 Deutsche marks per month has been provided for scientific assistants.(2)

#### New Technical Colleges Opened

The following new colleges were opened in September 1953 in order to expand the technical college system: College for Financial Affairs, Berlin-Kaulsdorf; College for Domestic Trade, Leipzig; Institute for Zoology, Guestraw-Schabernack; Institute for Agronomy, Neugattersleben; Institute for Pedagogy, Dresden; Institute for Pedagogy, Leipzig; Institute for Pedagogy, Halle; Institute for Pedagogy, Erfurt; Institute for Pedagogy, Guestraw; Institute for Pedagogy, Muehlhausen; College for Electrical Technology, Ilmenau.

The following colleges are designated to be opened during the 1953-54 school year: College for Heavy-Machine Building, Magdeburg; College for Machine Building, Paper and Textile Technology, Karl-Marx-Stadt; College for Construction, Leipzig; College for Construction, Cottbus.(1)

#### Government-Subsidized Research

A total of 1,800 scientific and sociological research grants were allocated by the government to the six GDR universities and the Dresden Technical College for 1954, a 50-percent increase over 1953 allocations. The above figure does not include specific research projects of GDR academies and ministries. Most of the research problems are of a basic nature, designed to further developments in scientific and technological fields and to benefit the GDR economy.

#### Scientific and Technological Research

Some of the research projects currently under way at universities, institutes, and academies deal with the following problems: measures for the protection of wood, important to the GDR wood industry; investigation of the transpiration of plants as a method of evaluating the effectiveness of fertilizers; geoelectric and geomagnetic rock tests, important for the discovery of new ore deposits; death of pigs caused by heart failure; stress and strain on tools and metal surfaces; improvement of internal-combustion engines; development of a computing machine designed for advanced mathematical equations; improvement of textile machinery, particularly spinning machines; a new sulfuric acid production method; basic theory of high-speed cutting and hot machining, and the development of ceramic cutting.

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Sociological Research

Two major projects in the field of sociological research are the publication of documents and materials on the history of the German labor movement and the publication of a textbook on German history. A further project is concerned with a study of German-Slavic names, a study carried on primarily in Sachsen and Thuringen.

Another research endeavor deals with the standardization of the German language. Attempts have been made for cooperation with West German scholars on this project.

Further projects include the environment and way of life of the Neanderthal men of Ehringsdorf, preparations for a textbook on teaching methods, and a study of the increased productivity of agricultural producers' cooperatives.

Encouragement of GDR Scientists to Participate in West German Conferences

The GDR government has been encouraging the participation of GDR scientists and scholars in West German conferences. During 1953, 1,000 GDR scientists and scholars attended conferences in West Germany, under the financial auspices of the State Secretariat for Higher Education. The following were some of the West German conferences attended by GDR scientists and scholars during 1953; Orthopedic Congress in Wiesbaden, Conference on Phytopathology and Plant Protection in Freiburg, Conference of the Physiological Society in Homburg, Annual Conference of the German Geophysical Society in Munich, Conference of German Neurologists and Psychiatrists in Bad Kissingen, Conference of Historians in Bremen, Convention of German Chemists in Hamburg, and International Music Congress in Bamberg.(2)

1. Berlin, Neues Deutschland, 2 Oct 53
2. Ibid., 19 Jan 54

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